



FREE THE EAGLE

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Howard J. Ruff
Chairman

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March 5, 1986


William Casey, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Langley, VA 22101

Dear Mr. Casey,

We are pleased to learn of John McMahon's resignation yesterday. I am confident that this move will strengthen the Agency's ability to fulfill its vital role in serving our national security interests.

With every best wish for your continued health and service,
I am

Sincerely yours,


Neal B. Blair
President

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD - Extensions of Remarks
5 March 1986

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN N.
McMAHON

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1986

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, John N. McMahon, the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, is retiring at the end of March. John has devoted over 34 years to the Nation's service in the Central Intelligence Agency. For the last 4 years, he has been the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.

All of us who have had an opportunity to work with him over a period of years know that he is a highly professional public servant. He has had an enormously distinguished career at the Central Intelligence Agency.

Prior to his appointment as the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, he served as the Deputy for Operations and as the Deputy for Intelligence, the office which produces the final analytic product of the CIA.

He has compiled a remarkable record, and all members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I know, join me in wishing him the very best. We have great admiration for the manner in which he has carried out his responsibilities in these past years.

It has been a pleasure for us to have the opportunity to work with him.

BOSTON GLOBE
5 March 1986

Deputy CIA director resigns; Reagan announces replacement

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Reagan yesterday accepted the resignation of Deputy CIA Director John N. McMahon and named a career intelligence officer to replace him.

A surprise announcement by the White House last night said Reagan would nominate Robert M. Gates, the agency's deputy director for intelligence, to replace McMahon.

McMahon, 56, a 34-year veteran of intelligence work, gave no explanation for his resignation other than to say in a letter to Reagan he had "reached a stage where I should move on."

Gates, 42, is a specialist in Soviet and Eastern European affairs

who has served two tours on the National Security Council staff at the White House. He has been associated with the CIA for 20 years, serving most of that time at the agency's headquarters in Langley, Va., just outside Washington.

The White House statement saying the president had accepted McMahon's resignation cited "personal reasons" for the deputy's departure, which is to be effective March 29.

The statement said Reagan accepted the resignation "with regret" and praised McMahon's long years of service to the nation.

McMahon had been planning to leave for some time and his resignation was simply a normal personnel move, according to intelligence sources.

NEW YORK POST
5 March 1986

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 11

CIA MYSTERY AS NUMBER 2 SPOOK QUIT

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan yesterday accepted the abrupt resignation of CIA Deputy Director John McMahon.

Reagan then quickly named another career intelligence officer to the No. 2 spot under Director William Casey.

A surprise announcement by the White House Tuesday evening said Reagan had promoted Robert Gates, the agency's deputy director for intelligence, to replace McMahon.

McMahon, a 34-year veteran of intelligence work, gave no explanation for his resignation other than to say in a letter to Reagan he had "reached a stage where I should move on."

The White House statement saying that the President had accepted McMahon's resignation cited "personal reasons" for the deputy's departure,



McMAHON
Surprise.

which is effective March 29.

The statement said Reagan accepted the resignation "with regret" and praised McMahon's long years of service to the nation.

There was no immediate explanation for the announcement coming after office hours and after reporters had been told there would be no further statements from the White House.

McMahon was

nominated by Reagan to be deputy director on April 26, 1982, following the resignation of Adm. Bobby Inman.

McMahon served in virtually every area of the CIA after joining the agency in 1951 — straight from college.

In 1959, McMahon was assigned to work on the U-2 spy-plane program.

The following year, a U-2 piloted by Francis Gary Powers was shot down over the Soviet Union in an incident that torpedoed a planned U.S.-Soviet summit conference.

McMahon later held top posts in electronic intelligence, technical services, administration and on the staff that coordinates all U.S. intelligence agencies.

In January 1978 McMahon became deputy director for operations in charge of the CIA's clandestine spy network.

BALTIMORE SUN
5 March 1986

WASHINGTON

McMahon quits CIA; Gates gets No. 2 post

President Reagan yesterday accepted the resignation of Deputy CIA Director John N. McMahon and quickly named another career intelligence officer to the government's No. 2 spot under top spy William Casey.

A surprise announcement by the White House yesterday evening said Mr. Reagan had promoted Robert M. Gates, the agency's deputy director for intelligence, to replace Mr. McMahon.

Mr. McMahon, a 34-year veteran of intelligence work, gave no explanation for his resignation other than to say in a letter to Mr. Reagan he had "reached a stage where I should move on." But McMahon had been planning to leave for some time and his resignation was simply a normal personnel move, according to intelligence sources speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mr. McMahon was nominated by Mr. Reagan to be deputy director on April 26, 1982, following the resignation of Adm. Bobby Inman, which had created a near-revolt on Capitol Hill. Both Democrats and Republicans were openly wary of CIA Director Casey and said they had come to rely on Admiral Inman, a career intelligence officer, to give them a reliable account of what the agency was doing.